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SOME
PROJECTS

RECOMMENDED TO THE

SOCIETY

FOR THE

ENCOURAGEMENT

OF

ARTS, MANUFACTURES,
and COMMERCE.

By the INSPECTOR, *proposed* F. R. S.

Proposed MEMBER of the SOCIETY for the
Encouragement of ARTS, &c.

Excludi Miserum Est.

LONDON:

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2017

PROCEEDS

RECOMMENDED TO THE

ASSOCIATION

OF THE

ENIGMA GEMMENT

ARTS MANUFACTURES
AND COMMERCE

By the DIRECTOR
Proposed Member of the
Association of ARTS



London, 1841

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Printed for R. B. B. at the
Pentagon, 1841

S O M E

PROJECTS, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

MY Vanity is not in the least mortified by the Repulse I received, when I was proposed to be elected a Member of your Society. Though I was rejected, the Ballot terminated to my Honour. I solicited no Votes: I entreated none of my Friends to be present; yet may I affirm that almost every one, who came not purposely to exclude me, voted in my Favour. My Opponents all came from one Quarter to gratify their Resentment. I

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forgive

forgive them freely. They had received great Provocation from me: For I had dragged into open Light, their Ignorance and Dulness, which had so long skulked under the Veil of Science and Philosophy. You, Gentlemen, have nothing to fear from my Resentment. Your Institution is so honourable to yourselves and beneficial to the Publick, that it would be an invidious Task to busy one's self in discovering small Imperfections. Permit me to lay before you some Projects, which will be of excellent Service to our Country, and will redound to your Honour.

The human Skin when tann'd,
maketh excellent Leather, and the
Skins stripped from Bodies of diffe-
rent

rent Ages, Conditions and Sexes are applicable to various Uses. The Hides of brawny Porters, Sailors and common Soldier will make stout Jack-boots and strong Harneſſes. The Hides of the middling Kind of People are fit for light Summer Boots, thin Pumps, leather Breeches and riding Gloves. But the fineſt Gloves and Mittins are to be cut from the delicate Skins of the Fair-Sex, Beaus and Infants: Such Gloves will be ſofter and more ſupple than thoſe made of Kid; becauſe the Skins from whence they are to be made, are leſs expoſed to the Inclemencies of the Air. The Number of Inhabitants in *Great-Britain*, at a moderate Calculation, are Ten Millions. A Million die Yearly, whoſe Hides

are entirely lost to their Friends and their Country. Be not shocked, Gentlemen, I do not propose from henceforth to tan the Hides of all his Majesty's Subjects as they shall die. I am aware, alas ! how difficult it is to encounter the Prejudices of Education. This must be a Work of Time. Even philosophic Minds can scarce abstract their Ideas so as to consider Things independant of vulgar Prejudices, and with Respect only to public Utility. The greatest Difficulty lies in introducing the Custom. The Hides, I propose to be first tanned for Use, are those of the *French* in *Germany*. Here, Gentlemen, you may distribute your Premiums.

To

To the first Officer that shall wear a pair of Jack-boots made from the Hide of a *French* Trooper, which the Officer has slain, *A gold Medal.*

To the first Officer that shall wear a Pair of Dancing-gloves cut from the delicate Skin of a *French* Marquis, *A Silver Medal.*

I am positive that this would introduce a general Fashion. At Balls and Races, the Officer would be fond of displaying these Marks of his Valour. The Ladies by handling the Gloves, would soon conquer any Aversion they might at first entertain. Premiums may be distributed to the common Soldiers. I hope to see the
Time,

Time, when whole Regiments shall have their Belts and Cartouches made of the Hides of their Enemies. When this Practice is once introduced, the Legislature may interpose and prohibit every Person to be buried in their Skin, under the same Penalties as to be buried in Linen.

I communicated this Project to my Friend, Mr. MASSIE. Struck with the Utility of it, he immediately proposed that a Tax should be laid on those Hides that should not be manufactured for common Use. He is now calculating the Number of industrious Poor that will be employed, and the clear Gains that will arise to the Nation, from as much of the Leather as shall be exported besides

sides the Increase of the King's Revenue. This Tax is to be levied on the Hide of every Man in Proportion to his Rank, and the Offices he had in his Life-time, respecting the real and personal Estate of which he died possessed. The following is a rough Sketch.

The Hide of a Duke - 1000 l.

Marquis - - - - - 850 l.

Earl - - - - - 600 l.

Viscount or Baron - - - 540 l.

Peereffes according to the Rank
of their respective Husbands.

The Hides of the two Metropoli-
tans, Lord Chancellor, Chief Jus-
tices,

tices, and Lieutenant-Generals,
each - - - - - 500 l.

My Lords the Bishops, Puisne
Judges and Staff-Officers, each
- - - - - 300 l.

Commoners according to their
Estate and Places.

Here my Friend triumphs and ex-
ults over Mr. *Jacob Henriques*.
This, says he, is a Tax that will
raise a vast Sum, and will be felt by
No-body. We ought immediately
to import as many raw Hides as pos-
sible from *Germany* and both the
Indies, and to manufacture them
here. I objected to him the Expence
of the Freight from the *Indies*. That
Expence,

Expencc, replies my Friend, will be saved in the Manufacturing, because the Skins of those who die there, are half tanned to our Hands. I will not wrong this great Man by entering too far into his Scheme; which he intends, after having more maturely digested it, to present to the Privy-Council, and to lay before the honourable House of Commons.

Hitherto I have considered this Project in a lucrative View; but it may be made subservient to the noblest Purposes, by exciting Emulation. Every one knows, that the Virtue of the antient *Romans* was kindled to the Performance of great and glorious Actions, by contemplating the Statues of their illustrious

Ancestors. If the well-tanned Hides of the greatest Personages of the present Age were to be hung up after their Death in public Places, they might be productive of the same good Consequences. The Fashion would become general. Our Pulpits and Communion-Tables would be covered with the Leather of the humble Prelates and pious Confessors of the present Times. The great Hall of the Mansion-house would be stripped of its antient Ornaments, the Stag's Antler and Foxes Noses, and the Walls would be covered with the Buff Jerkins of the great Men of the Family. It is to be hoped that some eminent Personage will set the Example. I myself, in my last Will and Testament, have given Directions to
my

my Executrix, (a Lady for whom I have the tenderest Regard) to cause me to be flay'd, my Skin to be well manufactured, my Toes and Fingers to be tipt with Gold, and an Inscription in Gold Letters, setting forth my Titles, Virtues, and the Advantages that Mankind will receive by this Project. I have desired the ingenious and classical Author of the Inscription on the new Bridge to compose one for me. If he should decline it, my Friend PLAIN ENGLISH will not refuse me. I have farther directed, that my Hide so adorned, shall be presented to you, Gentlemen, flattering myself that the Malice of my Enemies will not survive me : And it is my Desire, that it be hung up in the great Room of the Society, to be con-

templated by the present and future Generations. If this last Favour should be denied me, I have ordered that two Sets of my Works shall be bound in my own Leather, one of them to be deposited in the *British Musæum*, the other in the *Bodleian Library*.

This is intended as a Hint to Gentlemen of the several Professions, who may be unwilling that their Hides should be applied to servile Purposes. I intimated that the Bishop's Hides would be a proper Ornament for Pulpits and Communion Tables. The Hides of the inferior Clergy may be manufactured as Turkey or Morocco, and be used for the religious Purposes of binding Church Bibles and Common-Prayer Books. The numerous
 Volumes

Volumes of Law Reports and Statute-Books may be bound in the Leather of the numerous and respectable Body of Barristers, and from henceforth every new Reporter in his own Leather. The Skins of the Attornies may be converted into Parchment; such as were of inferior Reputation may serve the common Purposes of Conveyancing, those of higher Rank may be used for Records and serve to terminate Differences which it was the Business of their Lives to foment. The Gentlemen of the Army are Men of the nicest Honour, and the greatest Circumspection must be used towards them, lest I should have an Affair on my Hands. Let the Skins of the Subalterns be converted into Parchment, and let the Drums be covered with

with them. They will again rouse the *British* Valour, and even after their Death contribute to the Victories of their Countrymen. Some of the Hides of our General Officers, when well manufactured, will be very delicate and beautiful, being not deformed with any unseemly Scars.

The Taste for *Italian* Music every Day increases. The Men-fingers that come from Abroad acquire great Fortunes, which they spend in their native Country. It is well known that we have Youths who would equal them, if they underwent the same Operation. An Opportunity now offers of preserving two fine Voices that would otherwise be lost to the Public. I submit to the Committee of polite Arts

Arts what Premium is necessary to be distributed on that Account. I must observe that this is the only Piece of refined Luxury which our Nation has not adopted.

You have given, Gentlemen, a noble Premium for the Encouragement of the Growth of Hemp in our Colonies, something hereafter may be added as to the Application of it.

Another Project I have to communicate to you, Gentlemen, which deserves your most serious Attention : It is, to purchase a Spot of Ground about twenty Acres, which you will convert into a Botanic Garden. The Care and Management of which I will undertake with a handsome Gratitude.

tuity. This Spot should not be destin'd for the Cultivation of Exotics alone, but the medicinal Herbs of our own Country should here find a Place. I doubt not but that some Herb of native Growth might be found a specific Remedy for every Disease incident to an *English* Constitution. The World is already sufficiently apprized of the Virtues of the *Bardana* and *Water-Dock*. The Antients, as I am credibly informed, all confirm them. It is not my Custom to conceal any Medicine beneficial to Mankind, when the Use of it has been never known, or long since ceased. Far be it from me to imitate those Empirics who, to the Prejudice of the fair Practitioner, fraudulently procure the sole Right of poisoning his Majesty's

jeſty's Subjects with their nauſcous Medicines. I preſcribe no Medicine, the Efficacy of which may not be aſcertained. The *Bardana*, *Water-Dock*, and *Valerian* are Natives of this Iſland, and may every where be found in Plenty. But in Juſtice to the Public, and to myſelf, I muſt declare, that no one can ſo well diſtinguiſh the true Kind or ſo efficaciously extract its Virtues.

Accept, Gentlemen, theſe my Labours, which are the Reſult of much Study. I dedicate them, ſuch as they are, to the Service of the Public. I ſubmit the Execution of them to your Wiſdom. The only Reward to which my Ambition aſpires, is, when the Public are in full Enjoy-

D ment.

ment of these Benefits, that my Name
may be had in Remembrance. I
have the Honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your Most Obedient, (tho' rejected)

Humble Servant,

THE INSPECTOR.

